

evident result of it.* This experience, taken in confirmation of the assurances of the Bible, warrants ample expectations of the efficacy of an earnest and habitual devotion; provided still, as I need not remind you, that this means be employed as the grand auxiliary of the other means, and not alone, till all the rest are exhausted or impracticable. . And no doubt any man who should, amidst his serious projects, become sensible, with anything approaching to an adequate apprehension, of his dependence on God, would far more earnestly and constantly press on this great resource than is common even among good men. He would as little, without it, promise himself any distinguished success, as a mariner would expect to reach a distant coast by means of his sails spread in a stagnation of the air.—I have intimated my fear that it is visionary to expect an unusual success in the human administration of religion, unless there were unusual omens; now an emphatical spirit of prayer would be such an omen; and the individual who should solemnly resolve to make proof of its last possible efficacy, might probably find himself becoming a much more prevailing agent of good in his little sphere. And if the whole, or the greater number, of the disciples of Christianity were, with an earnest unfailing resolution of each, to combine that Heaven should not withhold one single influence which the very utmost effort of conspiring and persevering supplication would obtain, it would be the sign of a revolution of the world being at hand.

My dear friend, it is quite time to dismiss this whole subject; though it will probably appear to you that I have entirely lost and forgotten the very purpose for which I took it up, which certainly was to examine the correctness of some not unusual applications of the epithet Romantic. It seemed necessary, first, to describe, with some exemplifications, the characteristics of that extravagance which ought to be given up to the charge. The attempt to do this, has led me into a length of detail far beyond all expectation. The intention was, next, to display and to vindicate, in an extended illustration, several schemes of life, and models of character; but I will not prolong the subject. I shall only just specify, in concluding, two or three of those

* Here I shall not be misunderstood to believe the multitude of stories which have been told by deluded fancy, or detestable imposture.